

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 23 are pending with claims 1, 9, 15, and 20 being independent. Claims 1, 9, 15, and 20 have been amended.

All of the claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamaha (U.S. Patent No. 5,641,993) in view of Fujiwara (U.S. Patent No. 3,729,807) and Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 20 to obviate this rejection.

In particular, each of independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 20 has been amended to recite a semiconductor device that includes either a wiring (claims 1 and 20), a conductive film (claim 9), or a wiring electrode (claim 15) that "contains germanium at a concentration from 20 to 40 atomic%." Support for this amendment may be found in the application at, for example, page 27, lines 20-22. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, 15, and 20, along with their dependent claims, because neither Yamaha, Fujiwara, AAPA, nor any combination of the three describes or suggests the recited wiring, conductive film, or wiring electrode containing germanium at a concentration from 20 to 40 atomic%.

Yamaha describes an integrated circuit (IC) structure with multilayered aluminum wiring. Yamaha, however, does not describe or suggest the use of germanium in the IC structure, much less the use of a wiring, a conductive film, or a wiring electrode containing germanium at the recited concentration range. AAPA is similarly deficient.

Fujiwara describes a method of improving the bonding of a silicon, germanium, or gallium arsenide die onto a metal header through a particular process of depositing gold onto the die and heating the gold to form a eutectic bond with the metal header while preserving the adhesion of the gold to the die. Fujiwara describes using a germanium die and using germanium-containing gold as a vapor source, but does not describe or suggest the use of a wiring, a conductive film, or a wiring electrode containing germanium at the recited concentration range. See abstract; col. 4, lines 58-66.

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, 15, and 20, and their dependent claims, claims 2, 4, 11, 19, 21, and 23.


Applicant : Yamazaki, et al.
Serial No. : 09/814,255
Filed : March 21, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-
107002 / US3194/3205/3215D1

Enclosed is a \$120 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 20, 2004



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